

Rocky Mountain and Plateau regions. Fair weather was the rule in the Eastern States during the decade, but toward the middle of the period general rains fell in the West Gulf States, over the central and southern Great Plains, in the Mississippi Valley, and the western Lake region. The falls were heavy in Texas and the lower Missouri and upper Mississippi Valleys. At Taylor, Tex., 7.52 inches of rain fell within a period of 4 hours and 57 minutes; being the greatest 24-hour rainfall ever recorded during October at Taylor, and with the exception of April, 1915, the greatest 24-hour fall of record at that station. Rainfall was rather frequent in the far northwestern States, and toward the latter part of the decade rain had extended southward over the Pacific coast districts to central California, and during the last 48 hours of this period rain occurred in practically all districts west of the Rockies, and showers were received in most districts from the west Gulf region northward. Elsewhere fair weather prevailed, except for local widely scattered showers. During the first half of the third decade, rainfall was rather frequent in the western upper Lake region, the upper Mississippi Valley, and in the West Gulf district, with considerable snow in the higher elevations of the Rockies; the rainfall being heavy in Oklahoma. East of the Mississippi River fair weather was the rule, except for frequent rains in portions of the Florida Peninsula, and by the middle of the decade rain prevailed eastward to Georgia, eastern Tennessee, and central Ohio, the falls being heavy along the East Gulf coast. During the next few days precipitation occurred in all districts from the Mississippi Valley eastward, except in portions of the Florida Peninsula, the falls being heavy in the Ohio Valley and locally in the Atlantic coast States. The month closed with snow falling over the Plateau and northern Rocky Mountain districts.

For the month as a whole, the precipitation was light in most sections east of the Mississippi River, where large areas received less than 1 inch. At Mobile, Ala., the only precipitation during the month occurred from the 22d to 27th, nearly all falling within 24 hours; while at Montgomery, Ala., no rain fell from September 26 to October 24, being the longest period without rain in the history of that station; and Sault Ste Marie, Mich., had the least precipitation for October since the establishment of that station, and except for March, 1917, the least for any month of record for that place. Likewise Tampa, Fla., reports the month to have been the driest October in the history of that station. Moderate to fairly heavy amounts of precipitation were received from the west Gulf region northward to the lower Missouri Valley and central Great

Plains, where many localities received from 4 to 8 inches. The amounts ranged from 1.5 to 2.5 inches in much of the Rocky Mountain and Plateau area, while along the immediate Pacific coast the monthly totals ranged from less than half an inch in southern California to about 14 inches at points in western Washington.

Considerable snow fell in the higher elevations of the central and northern Rocky Mountain States; at Lander, Wyo., 34.5 inches of snow fell during the month, the heaviest of record for October. Heavy falls were also reported in portions of Colorado, Nebraska, and the Dakotas, and unusually early snowfall occurred in the mountains of southern California and western Arizona.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY.

From the west Gulf region northward to the lower Missouri Valley and to the westward and northwestward nearly to the Pacific, the relative humidity was generally higher than the normal, which would naturally be the case with the fairly heavy precipitation received over much of that region. In most sections east of the Mississippi River the dry conditions existing during the month were indicated by the relative humidity being generally below the seasonal average, although in many instances excesses occurred. This was notably the case in portions of the Lake region and in the New England States, where despite the small amount of rainfall the relative humidity averaged above the normal.

SEVERE STORMS.

Severe storms were relatively infrequent. Six were reported, as follows:

Stevens Point, Wis., 11th: Property damage estimated at thousands of dollars was caused at this place by a terrific wind storm accompanied by hail.

Tyler, Tex., 14th: Four persons were killed and two injured when their home was destroyed by a severe wind-storm about two miles from this place.

Winnsboro, Tex., 14th: A small tornado passed over this town, causing about \$75,000 property damage.

Mexico City, Tex., 19th: A severe storm wrecked the "Marist Brothers' School" building, located about 6 miles from San Antonio.

Meridian, Wis., 20th: A tornado demolished many farm buildings, blew down a schoolhouse, and uprooted many trees in this vicinity.

Smithfield, Tex., 27th: Buildings and fruit trees were blown down and sugar-cane crop damaged by a severe wind and rain storm.